

**CUMBERLAND FIRE DISTRICT MERGER PANEL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF OCTOBER 27th, 2005**

**Location: Council Chambers, 2nd floor, Cumberland Town Hall**

<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Francis Stetkiewicz, Chairman</b>	<b>Becki Abilheira*</b>
	<b>Thomas Bruce</b>	<b>John Jackson</b>
	<b>Lorraine Hynes</b>	<b>Joe Monti</b>
	<b>Tony Nobrega</b>	<b>Richard Hilton</b>
	<b>David Yacino</b>	<b>Chief Ernie Cimino</b>
	<b>Marcel Bacon</b>	<b>Edward LeBlanc</b>

**Absent: Chief Richard Susi**

**David Fernandes\***

**Robert Billington**

**Mayor David Iwuc\***

**(\*indicates non-voting member)**

**Convened: 4:53 P.M.**

**Adjourned: 5:27 P.M.**

**1. Motion to approve minutes of 10-13-05 meeting made by Tony Nobrega and seconded by Ed LeBlanc. Motion carried.**

**2. Reports of Sub-committees: –**

**A. Board of Assessment -David Robert, Chairman**

**Meeting of 10/21/05 all members present except Richard Hilton and Francis**

**Stetkiewicz.**

**Question raised how to best approach the assessment in taxes. They are**

**requesting information from Fire Districts for 2 prior years. The sub-committee will analyze a random sample for next meeting late next week – need to get more information from districts.**

**Ed LeBlanc indicated the minutes have not been posted although a summary was handed to the Chairperson. A motion was made to accept summary by Joe Monti and seconded by David Yacino. Motion carried.**

**Francis Stetkiewicz asked the sub-committees to please meet on the off weeks**

**from the regular meetings.**

**B. Board of Finance & Insurance – Thomas Bruce, Chairman**

**Tom Bruce said the committee met 3:30- 4:30 on October 27th, 2005.  
Chris Losea**

assisted with minutes. He needs financial data from districts to look at what we already had, the current budget data, year to date data and pay scale data. Reports say as of this date the newest report supersedes all other reports; needs to look at long term debts, find assets, etc. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday at 3:30 in the second floor conference room.

Frank Stetkiewicz indicated that the information may be confusing if you don't gather

the information from each district and until the information can be put in proper categories. We have to be patient until the issues and/or items can be clarified.

**C. Fire Chiefs Sub-committee – Rick Susi and E. Cimino, Co-Chairmen**

**Motion made by Ernie Cimino and seconded by Marcel Bacon to accept the report of**

**the Fire Chief's Sub-committee. Motion passed. E. Cimino stated that they**

**met October 18th, 2005 at Cumberland Hill. Chief Susi not present. Chief Coleman gave his advice. F. Stetkiewicz was in attendance at that meeting and cleared up what information was needed and was a resource for those who had questions. They looked at "developing what a fire service should be now and into the future". Also looked at 1999 MMA Study and the 2003 model done for Mayor McKee which is the ideal model. Next meeting at Cumberland Hill on November 1st, 2005 at 1:00 P.M. Tony Nobrega moved to accept the report, which was seconded by Joe Monti. The motion carried.**

#### **D. Firefighters Sub-committee – Lorraine Hynes, Chairperson**

**Lorraine Hynes stated that the Firefighters Sub-committee meeting was held on**

**October 20th, 2005. The main concern was keeping their jobs. State and Federal laws were reviewed and the North Smithfield Decision based on their Charter. They want a legal opinion as to what will happen. They discussed the 3 studies and the union will review**

them. Frank Stetkiewicz attended and gave a report on legal sub-committee. Rick Susi will give update on Fire Chief's meeting. There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. @ N. Cumberland Fire Dept. The agenda is prepared. They will submit minutes, when approved. Stetkiewicz indicated that if they determine the merger isn't possible, the committee won't recommend merger. A motion to accept report was made by M. Bacon and seconded by Savini. The motion carried.

#### **E. Legal Sub-committee – Becki Abilheira, Chairperson**

Becki Abilheira stated that the first meeting was held on October 20th, 2005 at 3:30.

Materials concerning N. Smithfield case were distributed to the members. The committee was contacting the Attorney General's Office and ACLU concerning advisory opinions. The legal sub-committee discussed the job security of the firefighters as well as succession clauses in the union contracts. The sub-committee was to prepare a request to all fire districts requesting that they

comply with any requests made by Fire District Sub-committees concerning gathering information and hiring practices. F. Stetkiewicz indicated that this is a slow process. Chief Cimino asked if the police department addressed hiring issues of its employees and how did they advertise. Chief Silva would be an asset to the hiring practices. There was a question by McLaughlin as to job classification and descriptions. The next meeting will be held on November 3, 2005 at 3:30 in the town council chambers.

### **3. Discussions:-**

Frank Stetkiewicz requests from committee that the next meeting be at 7:00 P.M. on

November 10th. John Jackson suggested we hold the meetings in the fire districts for future scheduling. E. LeBlanc made the motion and J. Jackson seconded it. The motion carried.



A question was raised by L. Hynes as to the minutes of the sub-committee meetings.

Do they go to Town Hall? F. Stetkiewicz indicated that they do. C. Emerson of N. Cumberland indicated that they are participating in this by starting a web site. It is [cumbff.org](http://cumbff.org).

Mr. Johnson stated that there is no press here to cover the meeting. We are not going

to get anywhere without coverage.

McLaughlin asked about the three studies that the firefighters have expressed concern

about job security. Did the last study recommend that another fire district was needed? F. Stetkiewicz indicated that the firefighters and chiefs have looked into this. McLaughlin stated that if the study is correct, do we need more people? H. Salvas said another district is needed. F. Stetkiewicz said they he has never seen where it was said another district was needed. Cimino asked, “should we be part of the municipality or one district?”

**4. A Motion was made by Tony Nobrega and seconded by E. Cimino to adjourn the**

**meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:27 P.M.**